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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please note that a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and the appropriate fee have been filed with this amendment.

Claims 1-17, 19-21, 23-24, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,670,984 to Robertson et al. ("Robertson").

Claims 18, 22 and 25-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson as applied to Claim 18 and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,731,805 to Tognazzini et al. ("Tognazzini").

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome these rejections and/or to better define the invention. No new matter has been entered by these amendments. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the amended claims in view of the following comments.

As recited in amended Claim 1, the Applicant's invention is directed toward a method for displaying a region of interest while transitioning between first and second locations for the region of interest within visual information on a display screen of a computer, comprising:

applying a transformation to the visual information to improve visual detail in a border region of the region of interest by: creating a lens surface for the border region having a ~~predetermined~~ lens surface shape; and, creating a presentation by overlaying the visual information on the lens surface and projecting the lens surface with the visual information onto a plane in a ~~viewer aligned direction~~ uniform direction aligned with a viewpoint, wherein at least one of the lens surface shape and the viewpoint remain constant; and,

displaying the presentation on the display screen.

The Applicant believes that amended claim 1 is patentable over Robertson and Tognazzini as these references do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. Similarly, the

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Applicant believes that Claims 2-31, being dependent on amended Claim 1 are also patentable over the Robertson and Tognazzini references.

In particular, the Applicant's invention includes a lens transformation that is entirely general with respect to lens shape. Unlike Robertson, the Applicant's invention is not restricted to truncated pyramids or multifaceted shapes.

On page 13 of the Office Action, in response to the above argument, the Examiner states: "Applicant identifies the current invention as including a lens transformation that is entirely general with respect to lens shape...In reply, Applicant's claim 1 specifically claims 'a predetermined lens surface shape'. Robertson discloses a lens of a pyramid shape or a multifaceted shape. Thus in view of Robertson the predetermined shape corresponds to the pyramid of multifaceted shape".

Accordingly, the term "predetermined" has been deleted from amended Claim 1.

In addition, in the Applicant's invention, the projection direction does not vary over the lens as it does in Robertson. Rather, the projection direction is uniform with respect to all points displaced by the lens and is viewer aligned. Furthermore, in the Applicant's invention, unlike Robertson, there is no need for the lens shape to change when a new location for the region of interest is desired. In other words, the lens shape is not altered when the region of interest is moved from a first location to a second location within the visual information.

On page 13 of the Office Action, in response to the above arguments, the Examiner states: "Applicant identifies the current invention as distinguishing over the applied prior art, Robertson, because in the current invention the projection direction is uniform with respect to all points displaced by the lens (pp. 8, Para 6) and the lens shape is not altered when the region of interest is moved from a first location to a second location within the visual information (pp. 10, Para 3)...In reply, Applicant does not claim the identified features."

In addition, on pages 13 and 14 of the Office Action, the Examiner states: "Applicant argues (pp.9, Para 2), Robertson does not disclose projection onto a plane in a view-aligned direction...In reply, Robertson discloses projection onto a plane (col. 6, ll. 45-51). Robertson further discloses moving the viewpoint based on the movement of the image lens (col. 4, ll. 25-

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29). Thus, in moving the viewpoint and the lens relative to one another such that the lens remains within view suggests that the lens is projected in a viewer-aligned direction."

Accordingly, to better define the invention the "identified features" pointed out by the Examiner are now included in amended Claim 1. In particular, Claim 1 now specifically recites "...projecting the lens surface with the visual information onto a plane in a uniform direction aligned with a viewpoint, wherein at least one of the lens surface shape and the viewpoint remain constant...".

Please note that the clause "...projecting the lens surface with the visual information onto a plane in a uniform direction aligned with a viewpoint..." recited in amended Claim 1 means that the projection direction is uniform with respect to all points displaced by the lens. That is, the "lens surface with the visual information" represents all of the points displaced by the lens. Please also note that amended Claim 1 now specifically recites that "...at least one of the lens surface shape and the viewpoint remain constant...".

Moreover, in the Applicant's invention, unlike Robertson, when transitioning a region of interest from a first location to a second location, only a border region surrounding the region of interest is transformed. The visual information within the region of interest itself is not subject to transformation during the transitioning.

On page 14 of the Office Action, in response to the above argument, the Examiner states: "Applicant argues (pp. 10, Para 4) Robertson discloses reducing the resolution in the side panels of the lens to improve performance, which differs from Applicant's claim of when transitioning a region of interest from a first location to a second location only a border region surrounding the region of interest is transformed...In reply, Robertson discloses the side panels surround the lens panel and thus, Robertson teaches the side panels border the lens panel and are a periphery of the region of interest. Robertson further teaches the side panels are greeked while the text within the lens panes are rendered within the font of the text and are not distorted or transformed. Thus, by greeking the side panels while the lens is being moved Robertson discloses transforming the side panels as the region of interest encompassed by the lens is repositioned."

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The Applicant submits that FIG. 8 of Robertson shows that the text in the lens panel is magnified (i.e., distorted). FIG. 8 of Robertson shows an embodiment in which one of many pages of text is presented in the lens panel. If the lens panel was not magnified (i.e., distorted), then more than one page would be shown in the lens panel. However, this is not the case in FIG. 8. Rather, in FIG. 8, only a portion of one page is shown with a distortion (greeking) around the edges of that page due to the magnification (i.e., distortion) of the lens panel. It is apparent that the lens panel is magnified given the spacings between greeked lines in the panels to the right of the lens panel. These spacings reduce progressively as one moves from panel to panel to the right of the lens panel. Thus, Robertson teaches magnified (i.e., distorted) text in the lens panel (or pane).

Accordingly, Robertson does not teach that element of amended claim 1 that recites "...applying a transformation to the visual information to improve visual detail in a border region of the region of interest...".

To conclude, the Applicant believes that amended claim 1 is patentable over Robertson and Tognazzini as these references do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. In particular, Robertson and Tognazzini do not teach or suggest "applying a transformation to the visual information to improve visual detail in a border region of the region of interest by: creating a lens surface for the border region having a lens surface shape; and, creating a presentation by overlaying the visual information on the lens surface and projecting the lens surface with the visual information onto a plane in a uniform direction aligned with a viewpoint, wherein at least one of the lens surface shape and the viewpoint remain constant". In addition, the Applicant believes that Claims 2-31, being dependent on amended claim 1 are also patentable over the Robertson and Tognazzini references.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

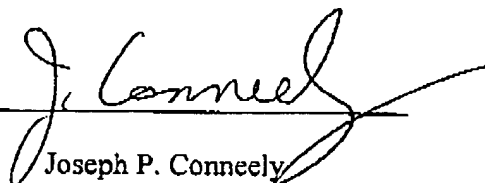
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Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Conneely', is written over a horizontal line.

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